

## REMARKS

This amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated February 27, 2003, and is accompanied by a petition and fee for an extension of three months for responding to the Office action, along with an executed Revocation and Reappointment of Power of Attorney. After entry of the above amendments, claims 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21-25 and 29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14-17, 20 and 26-28 have been cancelled.

In the Office action, the Examiner objected to remaining claim 13 and claims 24 and 25 depending from it, because of its reference to a system when it depended from a method claim. The amendment of claim 13 converts the claim into an independent method claim, and the objected to wording is deleted. Accordingly, claims 24 and 25 are also consistently refer to the method of the claims from which they depend.

The Examiner also objected to claims 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21-25 and 29 as depending on a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 5, 8, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 29 are now rewritten in independent form to include limitations of claims from which they depend. Claims 21 and 22 now depend from claim 5 instead of claim 1. Claim 23 now depends from claim 22 instead of claim 7. Claims 9, 24 and 25 depend from rewritten independent claims. In view of these amendments, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

These amendments are intended to accept the position of the examiner, and to put the application in condition of allowance without discussion of the prior art. The

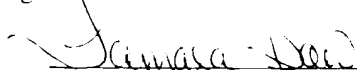
applicant reserves the right to file a related application directed to other combinations and sub-combinations of features, functions, elements, and/or properties in a related application.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of the subject matter of the claims not rejected, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, Applicant believes that the application is now allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is phrased in the Examiner's statement.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

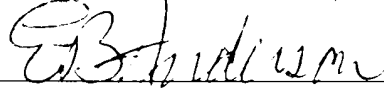
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on August 21, 2003.

  
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Tamara Daw

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.

  
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Edward B. Anderson  
Registration No. 30,154  
Customer No. 23581  
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)/Assignee  
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Telephone: (503) 224-6655  
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679